

Alaska Reads Act Webinar Series:

Weekly: January 12 – May 11, 2023

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Susan McKenzie, Director of Innovation and Education Excellence

January 13, 2023




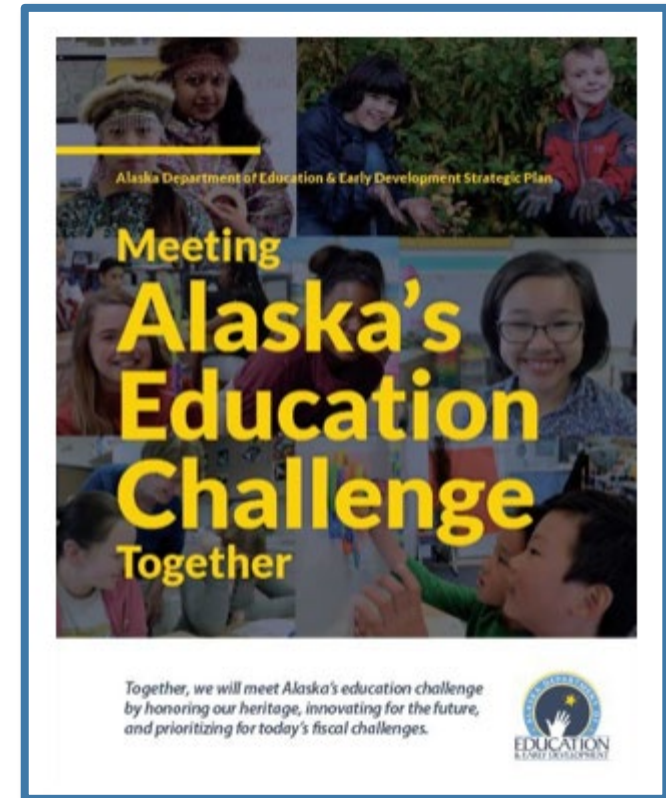
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
An excellent education for every student every day.	All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them. - Alaska Statute 14.03.015	DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.

Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared Priorities:

- 
1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
 2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.
 3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.
 4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.
 5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.



education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge

Agenda

- Details of Alaska Reads Act webinars
- Alaska Reads Act Overview
- District Reading Intervention Overview
- AK DEED Literacy Screener information
- Literacy Screener Waiver Information
- Questions



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Details

Alaska Reads Act Webinar Schedule:

Weekly on Thursdays or Fridays from 3:15-4:15

Reads Act Focus:	Dates:	Leader and Presenter:
District Reading Intervention	January 12 to February 2	Susy McKenzie
Teacher Certification	February 9	Sondra Meredith
Department Reading Program	February 16 to March 2	Susy McKenzie
Early Learning	March 9 to March 23	Deb Riddle
Data Collections	March 30	John Jones
Virtual Education	April 6 to April 20	Kelly Manning
SOR Symposium Pre-Conference	April 28	Susy McKenzie
Office Hours	Feb. 10, March 10, April 7, May 4, May 11	ALL

Alaska Reads Act Timeline and Resources

TIMELINE

- Regulations
 - August 2022 – December 2022
- Preparation
 - September 2022 – March 2023
- State Board of Education regulation package
 - January 25, 2023
- Public Comment
 - February 2023 – March 2023
- Anticipated Adoption
 - April 2023

RESOURCES

<https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>:

- Webinar schedule and registration
- Recordings of webinars
- Slide decks
- Draft documents shared during webinars
- One-page supports
- FAQ



Communication

- Communicating during the Zoom webinar meetings:
 - Place questions in the Q & A area of Zoom
 - Comments are to be placed in the chat box
 - Questions addressed as time permits
 - FAQ document
- Send questions to akreads@alaska.gov
- Request presentation for your district
- Reading Newsletter
- Alaska Reads Website (education.alaska.gov/akreads)
 - Weekly updates
- Planning in-person meetings around the state
- *THANK YOU to many who provided feedback*



*Please
remember...*

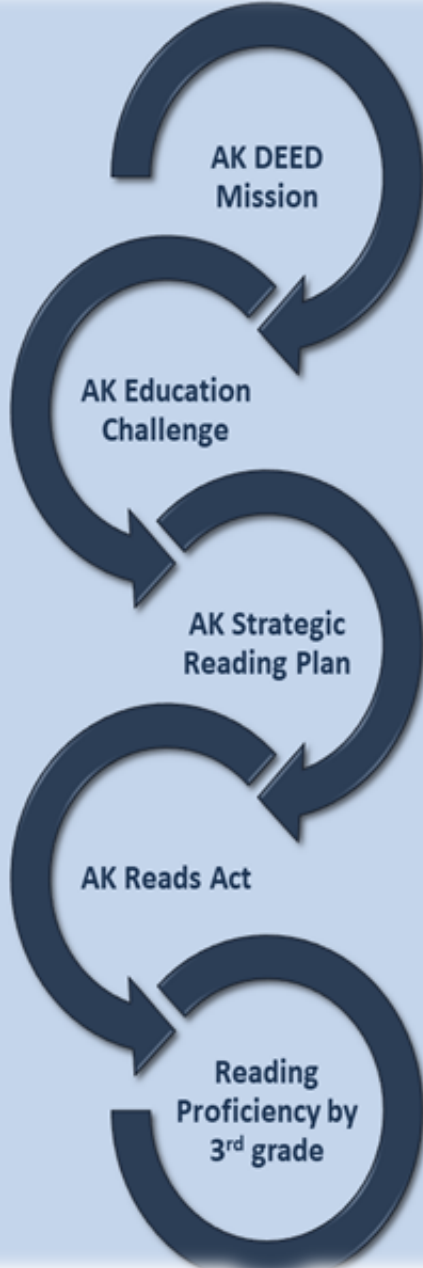
Regulations are in draft form. The final adopted regulations may result in some changes to what will be presented in each webinar. Thanks for your patience as we work to balance processes with stakeholder communication.

DRAFT.



Alaska Reads Act Overview

Alignment



Alaska Reads Act Components



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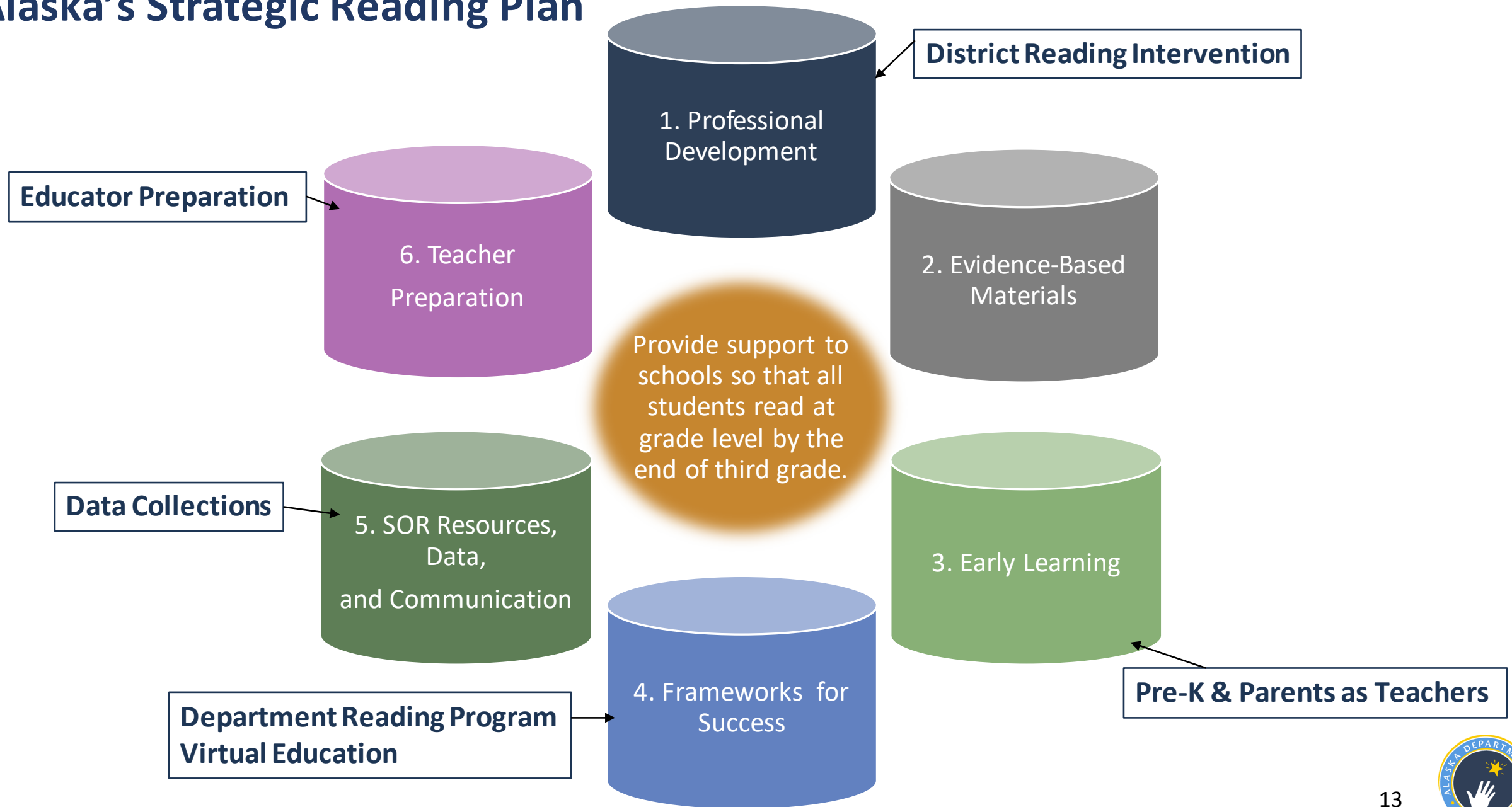
Reads Act Programmatic Elements:

- 1) District Reading Improvement
- 2) Department Reading Program
- 3) Pre-K and Parents as Teachers
- 4) Virtual Education

Other Components:

- 1) Educator preparation requirements
- 2) Reporting and data collections

Alaska's Strategic Reading Plan



District Reading Intervention:

-Overview

-Literacy Screener

Webinar 1 of 4 of District Reading Intervention

Presented by: Susan McKenzie, Director of IEE

January 13, 2023

District Reading Intervention: Overview



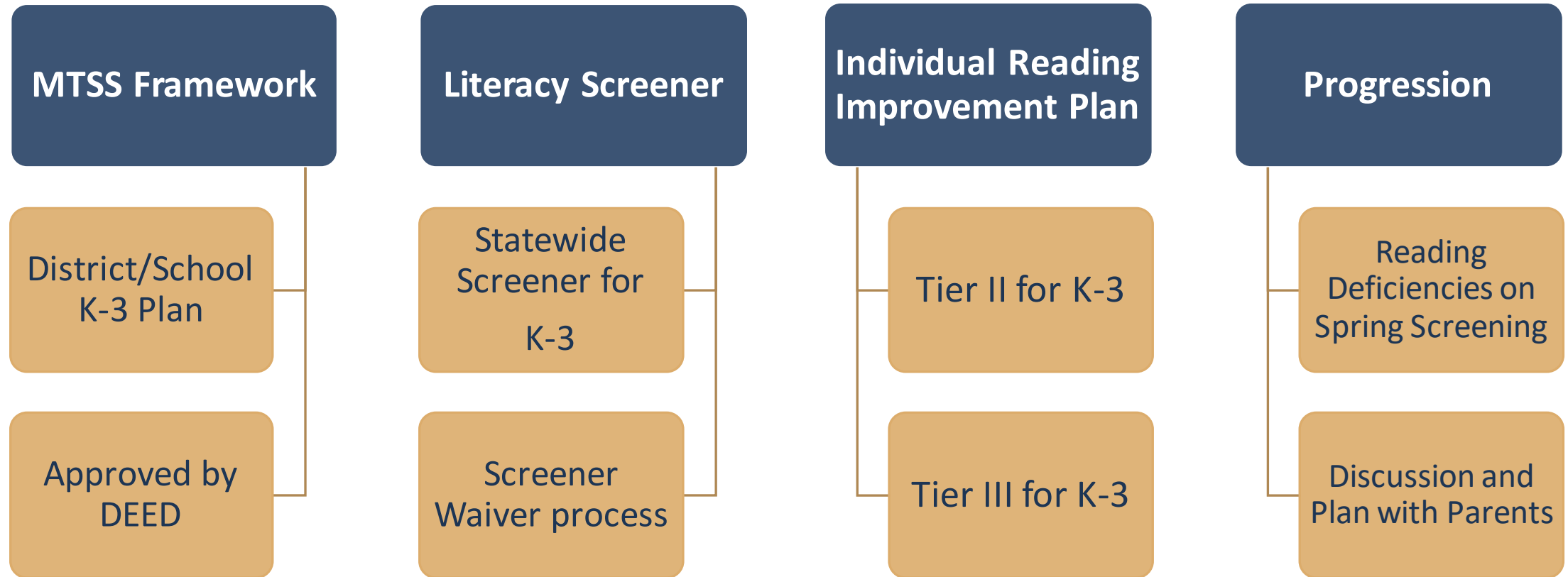
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House Bill 114

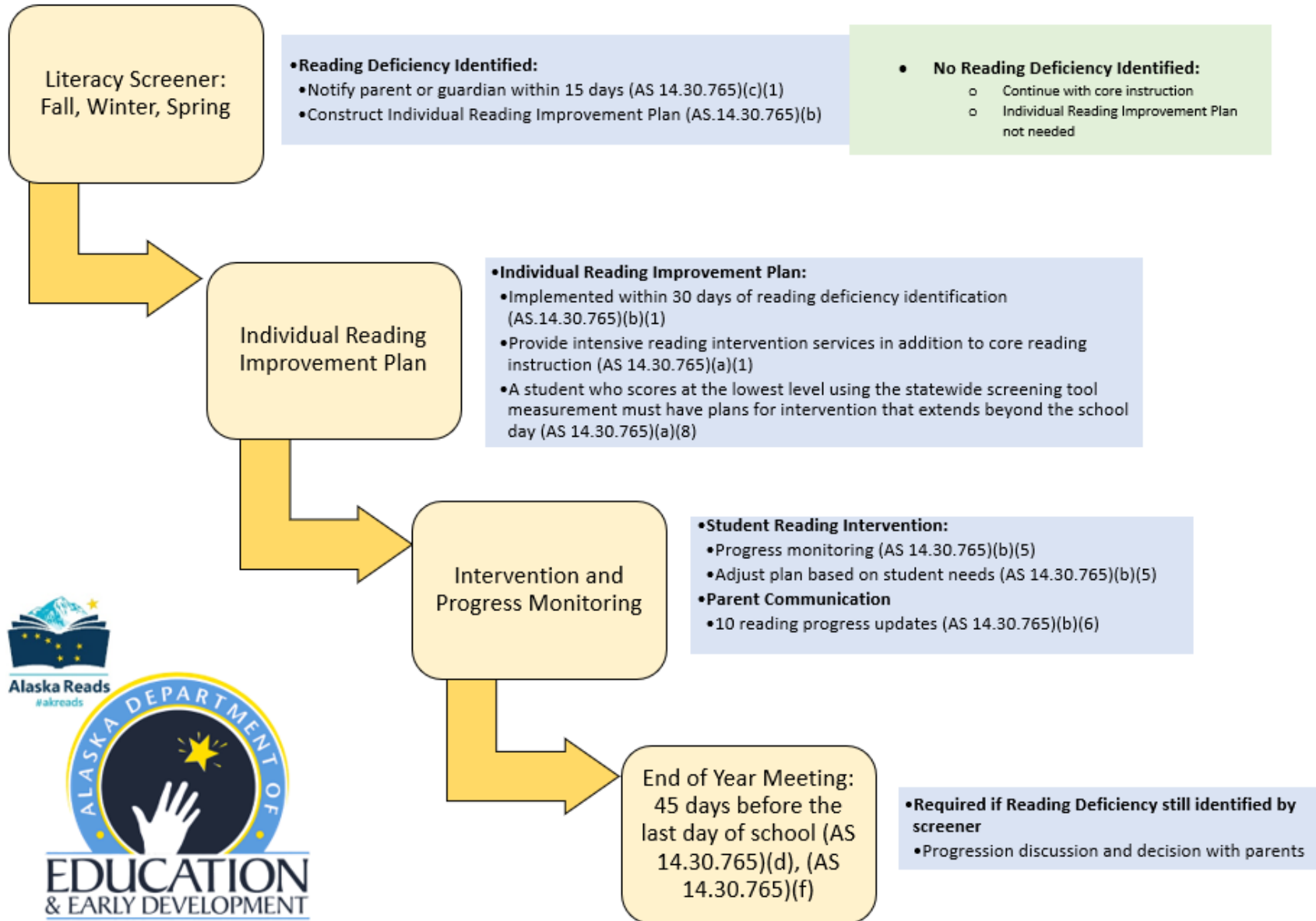
District Reading Intervention Language:

“Each school district shall offer intensive reading intervention services to students in grades kindergarten through three who exhibit a reading deficiency to assist students in achieving reading proficiency at or above grade level by the end of grade three.”

District Reading Intervention Overview



District Reading Intervention Flowchart



District Reading Intervention

Literacy Screener

House Bill 114

To implement the district reading intervention services established under AS 14.30.765, the department shall:

(1) adopt a statewide screening tool to administer to students in grades kindergarten through three to identify students with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of dyslexia; the screening tool must evaluate

- (A) phonemic awareness, letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency, and letter word sound fluency of students in kindergarten;
- (B) letter word sound fluency and oral reading fluency of students in grade one;
- (C) vocabulary and oral reading fluency of students in grades two and three;

(2) support teachers of grades kindergarten through three by

- (A) administering the statewide screening tool three times each school year, once in the fall, once in the winter, and once in the spring, to all students in grades kindergarten through three, with the exception of students who demonstrate sufficient reading skills on the first screening of the school year;
- (B) providing methods to monitor student progress;

House Bill 114

Reads Act:

Additional Literacy Screener Considerations

In adopting a statewide screening tool, the Department shall consider:

- Culturally responsive screener
- Time to administer- minimize effects on instructional time
- Time to report screening results
- Connecting screening with instruction and support
- Provide training related to using screening results and evidence-based reading intervention

Measuring Proficiency and Progress



Benchmark

- Three times per year
- All students



Progress Monitoring

- Every 2-4 weeks
- Only students below proficiency

mCLASS: Performance Indicators Used

Well Below Benchmark	AT RISK >20% chance of not achieving at/above 20th percentile	Intensive Support <i>At risk for reading difficulties including dyslexia</i>
Below Benchmark	SOME RISK >20% chance of not achieving at/above 40th percentile	Strategic Support
Benchmark	MINIMAL RISK <20% chance of not achieving at/above 40th percentile	Core Support
Above Benchmark	NEGLIGIBLE RISK <10% chance of not achieving at/above 40th percentile	Core Support

House Bill 114: World and Alaska Native Languages

Article 15 Reading Intervention

Section 14.30.760 (6)

“Review, approve, and assist districts developing alternative standardized reading screening tools in any language for use by school districts.”

Literacy Screener Support Plan

- 1) Survey districts to gather information regarding world and Native language programs across the state.
- 2) Use the survey to determine literacy screener and Reads Act needs.
- 3) Reach out to programs that request support.
- 4) Connect language experts to reading experts in developing tools for those that need support.

Literacy Screener Waiver

The Process



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House Bill 114

Language: Literacy Screener Waiver



“...Establish a process that allows the Commissioner to waive, upon request, use of the statewide screening tool required under this subsection by a school district if the school district has adopted an evidence-based reading screening tool and the screening tool is approved by the department;

The screening tool must evaluate:

- (A) Phonemic awareness, letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency of student in kindergarten;
- (B) Letter word sound fluency and oral reading fluency of students in grade one;
- (C) Vocabulary and oral reading fluency of students in grades two and three;”

Must include a dyslexia screener and be culturally responsive.

District Reading Intervention: Waiver

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b314b64245ea494cbb8d6171667be6bc>

Complete Waiver for Approval

THE SAME SCREENING TOOL MUST BE USED DISTRICT-WIDE EXCEPT FOR WORLD AND NATIVE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS.



Questions:

Send questions to akreads@alaska.gov

January 19, 2023:

District Reading Intervention- K-3 MTSS Plan

January 20, 2023:

K-3 MTSS Plan for World and Native Language Programs

WEBINAR REGISTRATION ON [HTTPS://EDUCATION.ALASKA.GOV/AKREADS](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads)

TIME: 3:15-4:15

District Reading Intervention Committee

akreads@alaska.gov



Susy McKenzie
IEE Director/Chair



Deb Riddle
Division Operations
Manager



Jenn Miller
Academic Support Team



Kristi Graber
ELA Content Specialist



Tracy Parker
Reading Specialist



Brittney Bailey
Admin: SRS Team



Kristen Spencer
Early Learning Specialist

Contact Information

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Stay Connected



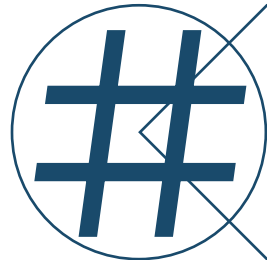
Website

- education.alaska.gov



Phone

- Main Line: (907) 465-2800
- Teacher Certification: (907) 465-2831



Social Media

- @AlaskaDEED